

DOE Weekly Field Memo – January 6, 2010

From the Department of Education:

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From the Department of Corrections:

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Memo from Commissioner: Proposed Policy Guidance for Participation in Graduation Activities for Students Eligible for Special Education

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Administrators

This memo from the commissioner outlines proposed policy guidance for those students receiving special education who require more than four years to graduate and who are part of a cohort of peers who will be graduating in June 2010. Visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#graduation> to view the memo.

Contact: Karin Edwards at (802) 828-5118 or karin.edwards@state.vt.us

Local/Regional Standards Board Grant Award Documents

Audience: Superintendents, Local/Regional Standards Board Chairs/Co Chairs, Business Managers

Local/Regional Standards Board (L/RSB) Grant Award documents have been forwarded to Superintendents for their signatures. A large percentage of these have been returned to the Department of Education (DOE) Finance Office signed by superintendents. Please ensure that if your district office received the L/RSB Grant Award Document that it is signed and returned to the DOE Finance Office so that grant amounts may be distributed.

Contact: Deb Giles, Local/Regional Standards Board Consultant at (802) 828-1370 or deborah.giles@state.vt.us

Vermont Broadband Mapping Initiative Seeking Input

Audience: Technology Coordinators, Superintendents, Principals

The Vermont Broadband Mapping Initiative is currently underway across the state. This initiative, being conducted by the Center for Rural Studies at UVM, has a primary goal of gathering and validating information on the availability of Broadband Internet Connections in Vermont. Several types of "Community Institutions" have been identified as essential in developing a valid broadband provision map for the state. Vermont educational facilities are among these institutions. This ties directly to the work that is being done on behalf of K-12 schools in regards to broadband connectivity. Superintendents signed letters of intent last fall to get on a list of priority schools for connecting to robust broadband. This effort by the Broadband Mapping Initiative will serve those interests. Please urge your schools to submit the requested information. For more information contact Michael Moser at CRS/UVM at (802) 656-0864

Contact: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us.

2010 Vermont School Custodian of the Year - Nominations Being Solicited

Audience: Business Managers, Principals, Superintendents, School Boards

The Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance Association (VSCMA), together with the Vermont Department of Education, is seeking nominations for the 2010 Vermont School Custodian of the Year. The deadline for submitting a nomination is March 3, 2010. Administrators are invited to nominate professional school custodians. Qualified individuals will be current full-time school custodians who have served in a Vermont school for at least five years and who exemplify the positive qualities of a hard-working, dedicated member of their school team. Nomination letters detailing the nominee's strengths,

accomplishments and contribution to her/his school team may be submitted electronically to cassandra.ryan@state.vt.us. A deserving individual will be chosen and recognized prior to the end of the current school year.

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf (802) 828-5402 cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us

CORRECTION: Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Nomination Form for 2010

Audience: K-6 Principals and Educators

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is considered the nation's highest honor in mathematics and science teaching in the United States. The 2010 awards are limited to teachers of mathematics and science kindergarten through grade 6. Nominees must be full-time employees of the school or school district who have taught at least 5 years. For more information, visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/mathematics.html#paemst.

The winner of the 2008 Presidential Award for Science Teaching is Christa Duthie-Fox of Charlotte Central School. Recognition activities for the Presidential Awards program will be held January 4 through January 7, 2010, in Washington, D.C. The National Science Foundation (NSF) will be honoring highly qualified Mathematics and Science teachers of grades K- 6.

The winner of the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching is Cathleen Newton of Dothan Brook School. Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/mathematics.html#paemst for more information.

Contact: Kathy Renfrew at (802) 828-6561 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us

December State Board Monthly Report

Audience: All

The State Board of Education produces a monthly report that is intended to update the public on Board activities and priorities. The report will be posted two weeks after a Board meeting and will be made available for a six-month period of time. Visit:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports.

Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us

Professional Development: CLIMBS® Course (includes three graduate credits from St. Michael's College) for Teaching English Language Learners

Audience: This training is open to K-12 educators from any region of Vermont (not limited to ESL teachers)

Dates: Jan 20 & 27, 2010; February 3, 10, & 17, 2010; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2010; April 7, 14, & 21; May 5 & 12, 2010. In partnership with the Burlington School District, the Champlain Valley Educator Development Center (CVEDC) is offering the CLIMBS® course designed to assist K-12 educators in scaffolding instruction for the English language learners (ELLs) in their classrooms. Participants will learn how to implement the WIDA ELP Standards in ways that support ELL students' development of academic language and help ensure the students' access to grade-level content. The course was developed in response to requests from educators who work with ELLs to further efforts to close the language and academic achievement gaps between ELLs and their peers.

For more information about the dates, times, location, costs, and required texts, and to register on-line:

<http://cvedc.champlain.edu>

Contact: Darlene Worth, worth@champlain.edu

DOE Contact: Jim McCobb at (802) 828-0185 or james.mccobb@state.vt.us

From the Department of Corrections:

Seeking Unwanted Blackboards/Chalkboards

Audience: Principals, School Facilities Managers

The Department of Corrections is seeking any unwanted blackboards for use in their facilities. If your school is discarding blackboards or has some that are no longer needed, please contact David Bellini at the Department of Corrections.

Contact: David Bellini at (802) 338-4623 or david.bellini@ahs.state.vt.us.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.